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Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 22 September 2005

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Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of modifying a first user's user profile for a data-class recommender, comprising the steps of:
 - receiving feedback from a first user scoring examples falling into various data-classes;
 - refining ~~said-a first user's-user profile associated with the first user~~ responsively to ~~said-the~~ feedback; and
 - modifying ~~said-the first user's-user profile~~ responsively to data from a second user's-user profile ~~associated with a second user~~; ~~said step of modifying~~ including modifying such that a frequency of recommendations of at least one data-class is increased without decreasing a frequency of recommendations of any other data-classes, ~~whereby said-so that the first user's-user profile is expanded in scope~~ according to preferences stored in ~~said-the second user's-user profile~~.
2. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ method as in of claim 1, wherein
 - ~~said-the first user's-user profile includes a specialized target description of favored data-classes, and~~
 - ~~said step of modifying the first user profile includes generalizing said-the specialized target description such that it encompasses at least one specialized target description of said-the second user's-user profile.~~
3. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ method as in of claim 2, wherein
 - ~~said step of modifying the first user profile includes substituting at least a union of specialized descriptions of said-the first user's-user profile and said-the second~~

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user's-user profile for said-the specialized description of said-the first user's-user profile.

4. (Currently amended) A The method as in of claim 1, wherein
said step of generalizing-modifying the first user profile includes substituting at least a union of specialized descriptions of said-the first user's-user profile and said-the second user's-user profile for said-the specialized description of said-the first user's-user profile.

5. (Currently amended) A method of modifying a first user's user profile for a data-class recommender, comprising the steps of:
receiving feedback from a first user scoring examples falling into various data-classes;

refining said-a first user's-user profile associated with the first user responsively to a said-the feedback;

selecting test-data for revising said-the first user's-user profile responsively to data from at least a second user's-user profile associated with a second user; and

requesting feedback on said-the test-data from said-the first user and modifying said-the first user's-user profile responsively to said-the feedback;

wherein

selecting the test-data includes selecting primarily test-data for which the first user profile is insufficient for the recommender to determine whether the test-data would be favored or disfavored.

6. (Currently amended) A The method as in of claim 5, wherein
said step of selecting the test-data includes selecting only test-data for which feedback incorporated in said-the first user's-user profile increases a discriminating power of said-the first user's-user profile.

7 (Canceled)

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8. (Currently amended) A The method as in of claim 5, wherein
~~said step of selecting the test-data~~ includes filtering a universe of data choices
through a specialized description of a concept space.

9. (Currently amended) A data-class recommender, comprising:
a learning engine;
a user interface device ~~connectable~~ operably coupled to ~~said~~ the learning
engine;
~~said~~ the learning engine being operably coupled ~~connectable~~ to a data source
containing descriptions of data selections;
~~said~~ the learning engine being programmed to:
receive, through ~~said~~ the user interface device, feedback from a first
user evaluating ~~said~~ the data selections; and to
progressively generate a description of data selections that are favored
and disfavored by ~~said~~ the first user based on the feedback, thereby generating a
first user profile; ~~said~~ learning engine being further programmed to
generate recommendations of data selections for ~~said~~ the first user
responsively to ~~said~~ the first user profile; ~~and~~ ~~said~~ learning engine being further
programmed to
selectively generate recommendations of data selections for ~~said~~ the
first user responsively to ~~said~~ the first user profile and at least a second user profile of
a second user;
wherein
the learning engine is programmed such that the first user profile includes
a narrow description defining target data selections and
a broad description defining non-target data selections,
the recommendations being derived from a space of selections lying between
the broad and narrow descriptions.

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10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) A method as in The recommender of claim 9, wherein
said learning engine is programmed such that said first user profile includes at
least a narrow description defining target data selections and
said the learning engine is further programmed to:
 compare a level of narrowness in said-the narrow description to a
threshold such that said the first user profile results in recommendations embracing a
range of target data that is narrower than said-the threshold, and said learning engine
is further programmed to
 selectively generate recommendations of data selections for said-the
first user responsively to said-the first user profile and said at least a second user
profile responsively to a result of comparing said-the level with said-the threshold.